

Ephesians

Week 15 – Marriage in Christ

Transition: Last week, we completed Paul's practical teaching about how Christians are to live as followers of Jesus (which he likens to a walk). In helping them to understand the concept, Paul used three metaphors: walking in love, walking as children of light, and walking as wise. Taken together, these images create a multi-faceted view of what it means to follow Jesus well.

Context: This week Paul continues teaching Christians how to live, which he does through three basic and common relationships within most households of that era: wives/husbands, children/fathers (parents), and slaves/masters. Through his teaching, not only do those in these household relationships come to understand their individual roles in Christ, but even more, each relationship reveals important truths about their greater relationship with God.

Opening Questions:

- What are some different ideas that people in our culture have about marriage today? Why do you think there is so much confusion over it?
- Why is marriage important or not important to you personally?

Scripture/Storying: 5:22-32

Discipleship Questions:

- Why do you think Paul starts by addressing wives? What are Paul's directions to wives? (v22-24, 33b)
Females: what is your take on this passage? Males: what is your take on it? Everyone: What are your concerns? In what ways does it encourage you?
- What are Paul's directions to the husbands? (v25-33a) Males: what is your take on this passage? Females: what is your take on it? Everyone: What are your concerns? In what ways does it encourage you?
- Regardless of which role you have, what is the secret to fulfilling your respective role in a way that pleases God and honors Him?
- What are some applicable truths that a single person might draw from this passage?
- How does human-to-human marriage help you understand the relationship between Christ and the Church? What do you think is the main idea that God wants His people to understand from being married to Him? How does it affect the way you live daily?
- What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you about your walk with Jesus and how He wants you to respond?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for our graduating high school seniors.

- Pray for wisdom and direction as they make decisions about further education and/or careers.
- Pray that we (as the church body) will be faithful in continuing to walk alongside them as they bring their faith into new situations and new relationships.
- Pray that they will be bold and deeply reliant on the strength and direction that God provides.